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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar addressing at the inaugural ceremony of National Emergencies operation Center established by NDMA.

PM Kakar seeks global cooperation in addressing adverse effects of climate change

Inaugurates Emergencies Operation Center for coordination on disaster management

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday inaugurated the newly established state-of-the-art National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) to help in coordinated efforts to manage the natural disasters in the future.

Established at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Headquarters, the Center would also help in disaster risk reduction and mitigation of damages.

The prime minister lauded the establishment of NEOC and emphasized the importance of disaster resilient infrastructure and policy framework.

He said that despite being one of the least contributors of carbon emissions globally, Pakistan was one of the top countries affected by climate change.

"Climate change is a real challenge that will keep haunting our future generations unless we take such concrete steps," he reiterated.

The prime minister also praised the coordinated efforts of all state institutions during the devastating floods of 2022, especially NDMA.

"Nearly one third of the population of the country

was affected by floods in 2022 and USD 30 billion was estimated to be the economic losses," he said.

The prime minister said that the world needed to step forward and help developing countries like Pakistan to cope up the adverse effects of climate change.

He also praised the role of NCOC both in COVID-19 and 2022 floods.

In a briefing, Prime Minister Kakar was told that NEOC would serve as hub of all technological inputs related to climate change, disasters management and predictive modeling for national emergencies.

First of its kind in Pakistan and the region, this is Pakistan's indigenously conceptualized capability, which will evolve capacity to predict future disasters with precision and accuracy about likely locations, time of impact and damage intensity.

It would generate coordinated response, guiding lower tiers of provincial and district level disaster management authorities. The need was felt for a platform which should perform the functions for developing a national collage of disasters monitoring, high end technology driven capability.

Pakistan takes up challenges confronting regional peace with Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Jilani meets Afghan FM Muttaqi in China; Reaffirms commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties; Not only Afghan refugees, action to be taken against all illegal immigrants: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Afghan foreign ministers met in Tibet on Thursday amid tensions as the foreign office clarified that the crackdown against illegal immigrants was not against a particular nationality. As tensions deepened between the two neighbours, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani met his Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi in China's Tibet Autonomous region. Both were there to attend an international conference.

A brief statement issued by the foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties with Afghanistan. He underscored that challenges

confronting regional peace and stability be addressed in collaborative spirit through collective strategies. No further details were provided but sources said the issue of terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan was one of the main talking points. According to sources, Foreign Minister Jilani made it clear that Afghanistan will have to fulfil its commitment to deny terrorist groups including banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) a space to operate from the neighbouring country.

Sources said the Afghan foreign minister reiterated his government's stance claiming that Kabul would not allow anyone to use its soil against any country including Pakistan.

Islamabad, however, is far from convinced with verbal assurances of the interim Afghan government. Relations between the two countries have been strained in recent weeks because of lack of decisive action by the Afghan Taliban government against the TTP.

APP adds: Pakistan on Thursday said its recent decision to deport illegal residents was not targeted at Afghan refugees but was against all foreigners without having valid visa documents.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch at a weekly press briefing said the national policy towards the Afghan refugees in the country "remained unchanged" and their safe repatriation was

a separate issue.

The spokesperson said the ongoing operation was against the individuals who had either overstayed their visas or did not have the valid documents to stay.

Baloch clarified that the operation had nothing to do with the Afghan refugees that Pakistan had been hosting for several decades despite its economic constraints.

She confirmed that the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan continued to take place, however, stressed that Pakistan would not accept the misuse of transit trade facilities.

Pakistan, she said, had been clearly articulating its concerns about the threats emanating from Afghanistan.

"We believe in diplomacy and will continue to

engage with the Afghan authorities to ensure that the Afghan soil is not used to foment terrorism," she said.

She said that Pakistan was in contact with the Indian authorities and urged them to issue visas to Pakistani spectators and journalists who wished to see the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup in India.

She said that it was the responsibility of the host country to provide security and a conducive environment for the Pakistan cricket team and emphasized that sports should not be mixed with politics.

She said that the Pakistan team was visiting India not for a bilateral cricket series and thus had every right to participate in the international series.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President, PM laud services of outgoing naval chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President House said.

The president lauded the services of the outgoing naval chief and his contribution to the country and the Pakistan Navy. He wished Admiral Niazi the best for his future.

Meanwhile outgoing Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid a farewell call on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Thursday, the PM Office said. PM Kakar lauded the services of the outgoing naval chief for his leadership of the institution and playing a key role in making the country's defence impregnable.

Solangi says Pakistan intends to develop itself as progressive, democratic, peaceful nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday said that Pakistan intended to move forward by developing itself as a progressive and democratic nation that desired peace within its frontiers and across the world.

Speaking at an international conference "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region and Beyond: Pakistan's Role," organised at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), he said: "We want to be a nation that wants to look after its people and intends to focus on the welfare of its masses."

The minister said now the Pakistan government had a clear vision to focus on its people, and economic revival and it had recently taken several initiatives to bolster the economy and explore new prospects for trade and investment.

He said the countries and political leadership did make mistakes in the past and Pakistan also had its share of mistakes and adding "but now we want to move on". The minister said it was in Pakistan's interest to avoid the ongoing confrontation between major world powers. He said that Pakistan had some lessons from its role with regard to the confrontation of major powers in the past.

Solangi said now Pakistan was desirous of establishing good relations with its neighbours including India and Afghanistan, and added Islamabad already enjoyed good relations with China and Iran.

He said that Pakistan also enjoyed very good relations with Middle East countries and now it was focusing to further improve economic and trade ties with the oil-rich states.



Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani meets Afghan Acting FM Amir Khan Muttaqi in Tibet, China.

Matter of people becoming missing brings bad name for country: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice (CJ) Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked that matter of people becoming missing earns bad name for the country.

He further remarked the appeals are pending since five years. We feel ashamed of sitting this way.

He gave these remarks while presiding over two members bench of IHC during the hearing of case related to journalist Mudassar Naro and other missing persons Thursday.

Justice Miangul Aurangzeb remarked people go missing but state does nothing. The previous Prime Minister (PM) appeared and he too misled. When next PM comes he will have different priorities.

He remarked the matter of people going missing is matter of extraordinary nature. Missing persons cases are bringing black blot on the name of Pakistan. Court issues directives repeatedly but implementation is not being made.

He observed state is powerful but it says in missing persons case it can do nothing in this regard. People go missing here. Do you expect development of this country. No country will give you dollars if your citizens are not safe. The courts should not tolerate the process of making the citizens missing at any cost. Attorney general should meet PM and inform the court about progress in this matter.

Aneeq stresses eternal legacy of Holy Prophet, emphasizes learning, unity among Muslims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed on Thursday the era of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) had concluded, yet the everlasting legacy of the Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him persevered.

Addressing the third annual 'Seerat-un-Nabi Conference' organized under Auqaf Islamabad here at Faisal Mosque as special guest, he opined that a single life was not enough to gain a profound comprehension of the Prophet (SAWW)'s exalted and virtuous character.

Minister Aneeq further emphasized that the Holy Quran instructed us to follow the path shown by the Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) raising question whether we had learned from His life and incorporated it into our own lives.

He highlighted the success in following the Prophet (SAWW)'s teachings, stating, "True believers are those whose character and conduct reflect the qualities of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW)."

Bugti instructs concerned officials to solve public problems immediately

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a bold move to ensure public convenience and welfare, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has instructed concerned officials to solve the problems of the people who come to the Home Ministry immediately.

He also warned that he will not tolerate any form of official culture or attitude that may hinder the process, he said in a tweet.

The home minister made these remarks during a meeting with the public at his office on Thursday. He listened to their problems and issued instructions to the concerned officials

on the spot. He assured the people that the staff of the Ministry of Interior is available at all times to solve their problems on priority.

The minister also emphasized the need to end the culture of bribery and nepotism. He said that there was no room in the Ministry of Interior for those who cause undue delay, bribery or abuse of power.

This commendable initiative by the minister is sure to bring a sigh of relief to the people of the country, who have long been plagued by bureaucratic delays and corruption.

WB director, Planning minister discuss rehabilitation projects in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank (WB) Country Director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine Thursday called on Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed and discussed the progress and implementation of the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in the flood-affected areas.

Secretary Awais Manzur Sumra and senior officials of the Ministry also attended the meeting that reviewed the current

status of the projects' implementation, a news release said.

The two sides discussed the WB-funded projects related to infrastructure development, energy, environment and other flood-affected rehabilitation. The WB country director appreciated the work of the caretaker government especially the Ministry of Planning for early implementation of projects, assuring his institution's continued support for Pakistan in future.



ISLAMABAD: Country Director World Bank, Najy Benhassine calls on Caretaker Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed to discuss the progress and implementation projects for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the flood affected areas.

China invites PM Kakar to BRI ceremony

ISLAMABAD (INP): China has invited Pakistan Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar for participating in a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) ceremony. The invitation was extended during a meeting between the foreign ministers of China and Pakistan which was held in Tibet on Thursday.

The meeting between FM Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi focused a raft of issues including the ongoing Hamalya Region Conference being held in Tibet.

Most wanted terrorist killed in Dera shootout

PESHAWAR (APP): Police in collaboration with law enforcing agencies (LEAs) on Thursday brought down a most wanted terrorist in a shootout in Dera Ismail Khan.

According to the Central Police Office, the Al Barq Unit of police in collaboration with law enforcing agencies, shot dead a most wanted terrorist in the CTD in an intelligence-based operation.

The dead terrorist named Haibat was wanted to CTD in ten cases of heinous nature crimes and was carrying a head money of six million rupees.



Mr. Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting addressing on international conference titled "Navigating Peace & Security in the Region and Beyond: Pakistan's Role," in Islamabad.

Amid threats to Ahmad cricket stadium Pakistan urges India to provide security to team

ISLAMABAD (INP): Amid reports of terror threats to Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Pakistan has called upon India to provide security to the national team during the ICC World Cup 2023.

The statement came after Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was asked to comment on visa delays for Pakistani fans and journalists and media reports regarding terror threats during a weekly press briefing in the federal capital on Thursday.

The Indian government hasn't granted visas to media persons even though they had applied for it much ahead of the mega tournament.

"The host country should provide protection to our cricket team in the ICC World Cup 2023," she said, adding that it is the responsibility of the Indian government to create a favourable environment.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch stated that they are in touch with Indian authorities and hoped that the visas would be issued soon.

Economic team to reach Morocco Sunday to attend annual meetings of WB, IMF

ISLAMABAD (Online): Economic team of ministry of finance will reach Morocco on Sunday to attend annual meetings of World Bank (WB) and IMF.

According to ministry sources the economic team will be led by care taker finance minister. Finance secretary and governor state bank will accompany care taker finance minister. Meetings of economic team are scheduled with MDI IMF, President World Bank and Asian Development Bank authorities.

CM KP chairs Sehat Card Scheme meeting KP Govt, SLIP agree for regular monthly payments through installment

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government and State Life Insurance Pakistan here Thursday agreed that payment will be made to the latter on regular monthly installments for Sehat Card scheme.

This was decided during an important meeting regarding Sehat Card Scheme held here at Chief Minister's House with Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in the chair.

Matters related to the implementation of reforms approved by the provincial cabinet to run the scheme on sustainable basis, and payment of outstandings to

the implementing partner i.e. State Life Insurance Company came under discussion. Advisor to the Chief Minister for Health Dr. Riaz Anwar, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Chief Executive Officer of the State Life Insurance Company and other concerned authorities attended the meeting. It was agreed in the meeting that in future, payment will be made to State Life Insurance Company on regular monthly installments. Relevant authorities of health department were directed to ensure implementation of newly approved reforms in the minimum possible time. Talking on the occasion, the caretaker

Chief Minister said that his government was not only committed to run Sehat Card Scheme on sustainable basis but also taking concrete steps to this effect. He said that the provincial government was facing financial crunch due to non-payment of due shares by the federal government on time, and that's why the provincial government was facing difficulties in paying the dues to State Life Insurance Company, and added that despite the financial crunch, it was the top most priority of the caretaker provincial government to continue the provision of free healthcare facilities under the Sehat Card Scheme.



LAHORE: Durmus Bastug, newly appointed Turkish Consul General in Lahore called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy close historical & friendly ties: Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Durmus Bastug, the newly appointed Turkish Consul General in Lahore, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. The Governor of Punjab expressed his best wishes for the Consul General. During the meeting, bolstering bilateral relations between Pakistan and Turkiye and enhancing cooperation in the fields of education, trade, and tourism were discussed in detail.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Turkiye is a brotherly country. Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy close historical and friendly ties. He said that there should be maximum exchange of educational and trade delegations between Turkiye and Pakistan.

The exchange of delegations at the public level will further promote bilateral relations in the field of trade and tourism, he added.

Governor Punjab said

that a large number of Pakistanis go to Turkiye for the purpose of tourism, and a large number of Pakistani students are also studying in Turkish universities. He said that there are opportunities for foreign direct investment in Pakistan for Turkish investors. Governor Punjab said that the government is grateful to Turkiye for helping the flood victims in Pakistan last year.

He said that the Pakistani government and people came forward to help the earthquake victims in Turkiye.

US Consul General calls on CM Naqvi

Independent Report
LAHORE: US Consul General Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins deputed in Lahore met with the Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Thursday in which matters pertaining to mutual interests, promotion of bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various sectors were discussed.

The American Consul General lauded steps being taken by the Punjab government under the leadership of CM Mohsin Naqvi with regard to restoration and renovation of religious places especially of historical buildings. The American Consul General stated that

the Punjab government is doing an appreciable work in order to safeguard and protect the religious and cultural heritage.

CM Mohsin Naqvi while talking with the American Consul General underscored that all citizens including the minorities enjoy equal rights in Pakistan according to the constitution. "We have chalked out a comprehensive plan for the restoration of religious and historical buildings." CM Mohsin Naqvi outlined that the Punjab government is vigorously pursuing its uniform agenda of progress by making the welfare and prosperity of the people as its focal point.



KARACHI: Police officials carry out the grand combing search operation against criminals as security has been tightened in city due to security reasons at different areas of Old Golimar area in Karachi.

Minister stresses measures to reduce medical treatment cost

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Dr. Jamal Nasir has stressed the need to lower the cost of medical treatment, especially medicines' prices, in the light of the country's current economic challenges. Speaking at the Provincial Drugs Quality Control Board meeting on Thursday, he highlighted Pakistan's economic constraints and the need to control rising treatment costs.

Dr. Nasir called upon the government institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and stakeholders to

collaborate on a comprehensive strategy to lower medicines' prices. He emphasised the importance of safeguarding Pakistan's prosperity and economic growth by ensuring accessible healthcare for all. He urged medical-related businesses to prioritise public welfare over personal profits.

Highlighting the humanitarian aspect of medicines, Dr. Nasir said that quality medication was a fundamental right of people and encouraged the local pharmaceutical industry to produce internationally acclaimed medicines.



PESHAWAR: Police display a huge quantity of smuggled liquor, recovered during an operation.

Forests jewel of earth: ACS South

MULTAN (APP): Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, Saqib Zafar has said that the forests were the beauty of the universe and jewel of earth.

He expressed these views during the inauguration of the tree-plantation drive at Lal Sohanra National Park Bahawalpur as 2500 saplings were planted on the first day. Secretary Forest and Wildlife South Punjab Sarfraz Khan Magasi was also accompanied by him.

Secretary Livestock Nasir Jamal Hotiana,

Secretary Services Amjad Shoaib Khan Tareen, Secretary Irrigation Abdul Khaliq Razaqi and others also took part in the campaign and planted saplings.

ACS South Punjab while addressing the ceremony said that Pakistan was facing adverse effects of climate change and that last year's flood due to heavy rains was also the result of climate change. He said the global temperature was increasing which poses serious threats to the whole world.

Islam is religion of peace: VC

SUKKUR (APP): Vice Chancellor (VC), Arora University Sukkur Engr Zahid Hussain Khand has said Islam is a religion of peace and Allah dislikes Shirk and clashes which can be avoided by following the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Addressing a ceremony here Thursday, he said that we must form a society on the basis of justice, which must be irrespective of any kind of biases and differences. The VC said that the biggest problem of the world was to establish peace in the world and the problem could be solved by preaching the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Other speakers said that the life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) was the best example for us and it was the responsibility of parents and teachers to transfer our love with Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) to the next generation.

They said that Islamic literature was being removed from curriculum books under a conspiracy and the West was making progress by following some of the principles of Islam.

Minister highlights significance of teachers in society

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Provincial Caretaker Minister for Primary, Secondary and Higher Education, Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan has emphasized the significant role of teachers in society stating that their contribution in nation building cannot be undermined. He expressed these views as a special guest at an event commemorating International Teachers Day at Government Higher Secondary School No. 1 in Peshawar. The event featured speeches, national songs, and tributes by students to their teachers. He expressed gratitude to teachers for their services

and highlighted their pivotal role in the country's development. He also urged students to honor and respect their teachers, recognize their role in nurturing society and shaping the future generation. The minister assured that economic challenges would be addressed and teachers' issues including their upgradation would be resolved soon. He encouraged teachers to focus their energies on providing quality education and assured them that the government is committed to addressing their concerns and providing them with necessary support.

Two person, girl killed

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons including a girl were killed in different incidents near here on Thursday.

According to Rescue-1122, Javeria (8) suffered fatal electric shock from a water pump at her home in Chak No 627-GB and died on the spot.

Separately, a man was shot dead over the suspicion of illicit relations in the limits of Garh police station. According to a spokesperson, the victim Tanveer of Thatha Doka wanted to marry a girl of his own choice but the alleged accused Muhammad Sabtain, Fared and Javed, brothers of the girl Rukaiya shot him dead and fled.

International News

Putin says West has lost touch with reality, Russia had to push back

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that the United States was seeking to impose its crumbling hegemony across the world and that the war in Ukraine showed how far the West had lost touch with reality.

"We did not start the so-called war in Ukraine. On the contrary - we are trying to finish it," Putin told a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The West had caused the war because the United States was a "hegemon"

which considered itself the only arbiter of truth on the planet, said the Kremlin chief. Putin said the leaders of the West had lost "a sense of reality" because of what he cast as Washington's "colonial thinking". He questioned what right the United States had to lecture any other country. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 unleashed a war that has devastated swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine, killed or injured hundreds of thousands of men and triggered the biggest rupture in Russia's ties with the West

for six decades.

The West casts the war as Moscow's biggest strategic blunder since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Western leaders say they want to defeat Russia on the battlefields of Ukraine. A Ukrainian counteroffensive has so far failed to yield major territorial success.

Putin, though, presents the war as part of a much bigger struggle with the United States which the Kremlin elite says aims to cleave Russia apart, grab its vast natural resources and then turn to settling scores with China.



House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), a prime contender in the race to be the next Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, arrives for a meeting with the Texas Republican House delegation, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, U.S.

Russia-Ukraine war: Moscow's missile strike kills at least 49 in Kupiansk grocery store, cafe

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian officials said on Thursday that 49 people had died as a result of a Russian attack on a grocery store and cafe in Kharkiv's eastern region, where Moscow's forces have been pushing to recapture territory they lost last year to Ukrainian troops.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the strike had slammed into the Kupiansk district of the war-battered region bordering Russia.

"The brutal Russian grocery store with a rocket is a completely deliberate crime of hitting an ordinary

**Ukraine downs 24
drones launched by
Russia - military**

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine's air defences downed 24 of 29 Russian drones launched in attacks on its territory overnight, the Ukrainian general staff said on Thursday.

Ukraine's Air Force said the drones were destroyed over southern Odessa and Mykolaiv regions, as well as central Kirovohrad region.

Biden to build new border wall touted by Trump, in policy reversal

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden's administration said on Thursday it will build additional sections of border wall to stave off record migrant crossings from Mexico, a policy reversal that embraces a signature measure of former President Donald Trump.

Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican Party nomination to challenge Biden, a Democrat, in the 2024 presidential race. Trump made building border barriers a central tenet of his first campaign for president with the rally

chant, "Build That Wall."

One of Biden's first actions after taking office in January 2021 was to issue a proclamation pledging "no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall" as well as a review of all resources that had already been committed.

Trump was quick to claim victory and demand an apology.

"As I have stated often, over thousands of years, there are only two things that have consistently worked, wheels, and walls!" Trump wrote on social media.



Activists from various local and foreign NGOs gathered around the Tolerance Monument in a park in Jerusalem.

UN warns global economic growth on verge of stalling

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations has warned that the world economy is headed for a protracted slowdown without reform of the global financial architecture, better policies to combat inflation, inequality, sovereign debt and stronger market regulation.

Economic growth is forecast to stall, slowing to 2.4 percent in 2023, from 3 percent in 2022, across most global regions with little prospect of a rebound in 2024, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report released on Wednesday.

The UN trade body, which is based in Geneva, said that the global economy is at "a critical juncture", with some economies thriving and expanding, while others falter and slow down.

Rebecca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary-General, emphasised the need to avoid past policy errors.

"We need a balanced policy mix of fiscal, monetary and supply-side measures to achieve financial sustainability, boost productive investment and create better jobs. Regulation needs to address the deepening asymmetries of the international trading and financial system," she said.

Senators say they hope to meet with Xi during China trip

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A bipartisan group of U.S. senators hope to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a trip to China this month, two of them told NBC News, as a whirl of diplomatic activity builds expectations for a meeting later this year between the leaders of the world's two largest economies.

"I don't think that that's clear yet whether it will happen," Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, said of a potential meeting between the senators and Xi.

"We want to meet with a number of the officials there as well as the American business community there as well, and we would like to meet with President Xi."

Crapo and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., will lead the delegation, which also includes Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., Sen. John Kennedy, R-La., and Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga. They will also visit U.S. allies South Korea and Japan during the 10-day trip.

Poland election turns Germany into punching bag, straining Western alliance

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Fighting to win an unprecedented third term in office, Poland's nationalist government has seized on a target close to home: Germany, its NATO ally and biggest trading partner.

In a tight race ahead of Poland's Oct. 15 election, leaders of the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party have accused Germany of trying to dictate Polish government policy from Berlin on anything from migration to gas.

The feud has frayed Europe's broadly united front supporting Ukraine against Russia's invasion, shredding a plan for a joint Polish-German tank repair plant for Kyiv's benefit.

The populist PiS leadership is plotting to install the party's main electoral opponent, the liberal former prime minister Donald Tusk, back in power.

PiS has tapped into a mistrust towards Germany that still runs high in part of the electorate.

Biden thanks Qatar's emir for prisoner swap deal

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: US President Joe Biden called Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to thank him for Doha's mediation that resulted in the release of a number of Americans from Iran, the Amiri Diwan and the White House said on Tuesday. Last month, with Doha's mediation, Iran freed five Americans as part of a prisoner swap for five Iranians held in the United States and the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian funds, marking a rare deal between the long-time antagonists.



Indian army personnel conduct a search operation for the missing soldiers in north Sikkim.

At least 14 dead, 102 missing in India glacial lake burst

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian rescue teams searched on Thursday for 102 people missing after a devastating flash flood triggered by a high-altitude glacial lake burst killed at least 14, officials said.

Violent flooding from glacier lakes dammed by loose rock has become more frequent as global temperatures rise and ice melts, with climate scientists warning it poses an increasing danger across the wider Himalayan mountain range.

"The number of human lives lost is 14 so far, and the number of missing is 102," Prabhakar Rai, director of the Sikkim state disaster management authority, told AFP a day after a wall of water rushed

down the mountainous valley in northeastern India.

Authorities said roads had been "severely" damaged and 14 bridges had been washed away.

Rescuers were battling to help those hit by the flood, with communications cut across large areas, and 25 relief camps set up for those forced to flee their homes.

"Floodwaters have caused havoc in four districts of the state, sweeping away people, roads, bridges," Himanshu Tiwari, an Indian Army spokesman, told AFP.

Twenty-two soldiers are among the missing, the army said. One previously missing soldier was rescued. The army was working to reestablish telephone



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on Breast Cancer Awareness with a delegation of Siemens Healthineers Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President for collaborative efforts to raise awareness on breast cancer

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday called for collaborative efforts by public and private sectors to create awareness about breast cancer, especially during October, besides providing support to those affected by the disease.

The president made these remarks during a meeting with a delegation from Siemens Healthineers in Pakistan. CEO of Siemens, Khurram Jameel, and the First Lady Begum Samina Alvi attended the meeting virtually.

The president said that media and other relevant stakeholders should join hands in the breast cancer awareness campaign and encourage women to engage in regular self-examinations and seek timely medical guidance for the early diagnosis of this life-threatening ailment.

During the meeting, President Alvi highlighted the potential of digital technologies in addressing healthcare challenges, particularly in enhancing awareness, improving healthcare accessibility, and

raising the quality of care while minimizing costs.

He underscored the importance of early screenings, self-examinations, and improved medical services.

Moreover, the president also underlined the pivotal role that private sector partners could play in raising awareness through media campaigns, standee displays in hospitals and public areas, distribution of pamphlets, and organizing educational workshops and seminars in women's educational institutions.

He also called for

organizing breast cancer awareness events during October. President Alvi also commended the role of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and telecom companies, who had initiated a call-caution tone from 1st October on the advice of Presidency urging women to conduct self-examinations and seek medical advice if they noticed any unusual growth.

He said that spreading the message of self-examination for early breast cancer detection should not be regarded as taboo.

Solangi, Turkish envoy agree to enhance cooperation in diverse fields

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkey on Thursday agreed to promote bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including economy, trade, culture, tourism, media and people to people contacts.

This was decided in a meeting between Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi and Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci who called on the minister here.

Murtaza Solangi said that Pakistan highly valued its relations with the brotherly country Turkey.

"Pakistan and Türkiye have always supported each other in difficult times," Murtaza Solangi added.

Strongly condemning the recent bomb blast in Türkiye, the minister said Pakistan had faced the scourge of terrorism and Türkiye was also suffering

from the same menace.

"We are a strong country and incidents of terrorism cannot weaken us as a nation," reiterated Murtaza Solangi.

In the meeting, the need to expand cooperation in the fields of media, drama and films was also emphasized.

"Film and drama can play a key role in improving the global image of any country," Murtaza Solangi said adding Turkish plays were very popular in Pakistan.

Expressing the desire to co-produce movies with Türkiye, Murtaza Solangi said that Turkish filmmakers could benefit from tax amnesty given the film industry in Pakistan.

"Northern parts of Pakistan are rich in natural beauty and Turkish filmmakers can utilize these beautiful tourist areas," Murtaza Solangi remarked.

Moreover, he said that

cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media was the need of the hour. He suggested that Pakistan and Türkiye should promote their culture together and in this context, joint films can also be exhibited at Pakistan, China Center.

Turkish ambassador said that Pakistan and Türkiye were cooperating in every sphere of life including media.

He said the Turkish government wanted to bring Turkish films to Pakistani cinemas.

Mehmet Pacaci said that the Republic of Türkiye was celebrating its 100th anniversary, and they wanted to make these events memorable together with Pakistan.

The Turkish ambassador also appreciated the interest of the minister for information in the promotion of regional cooperation.

Pakistan to continue supporting Kashmiris till implementation of UNSC resolutions: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cartaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday, calling the Kashmir dispute an unfinished agenda of the partition, resolved that Pakistan would continue its political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, who called on him, said that Pakistan would stand by the Kashmiris until the issue was resolved as per the aspirations of the Kashmiri people as well as the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The AJK prime minister lauded PM Kakar for raising the voice in support of Kashmiri people at the forum of the United Nations General Assembly.

"We, the people of Kashmir, are grateful to you for exposing Indian atrocities in Occupied Kashmir before the world," the AJK prime minister added.

SAPM inaugurates new OPF Boys College's campus

ISLAMABAD (Online): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik, emphasized the government's unwavering support during the inauguration ceremony of the new OPF Boys College campus here in the Federal Capital. The Special Assistant applauded the OPF for inaugurating the new campus, catering to the educational needs of the children of overseas Pakistanis, according to a press release.

He stressed the importance of nurturing the youth in a conducive environment with access to top-quality resources, making quality education for overseas Pakistani children a paramount concern of the current administration.

Malik reaffirmed the government's top priority of extending comprehensive assistance to overseas Pakistanis, recognizing their pivotal role in bolstering the nation's economy. He underlined the government's keen interest in facilitating the integration of overseas Pakistanis into the national mainstream, citing the favorable environment for further initiatives. Earlier today, Malik formally inaugurated the new OPF Boys College junior campus located in the H-8 sector, expressing his admiration for the facility's management and infrastructure.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

IHC issues important directive in 190mln pounds case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued an important directive in 190 million pounds case.

The court directed director industries and labor department to decide on the application of registration within two weeks in case against delay in registration under new trust act in 190 million pounds case.

The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb Thursday.

IHC remarked the petition filed by petitioner in connection with registration be decided within two weeks.

NIH issues advisory on prevention of Conjunctivitis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Institute of Health (NIH) on Thursday issued an advisory for the prevention and control of Conjunctivitis (Pink eye) to provide information for mitigating the risk factors associated with the transmission of the disease. According to NIH, viral Conjunctivitis cases surge has been witnessed in some parts of the country in past few weeks. As per the advisory, it is imperative to undertake immediate and long-term preventive measures, and to alert and sensitize the health professionals to be vigilant and timely detect and treat cases of viral Conjunctivitis and prevent its further transmission in the community.

The advisory said that viral conjunctivitis, also called "Pink Eye" is a highly contagious acute conjunctival infection usually caused by an adenovirus with symptoms including irritation, photophobia, and watery discharge (pus or crusty eyes).

The advisory recommended the measures including all viral conjunctivitis patients are encouraged to be self-quarantined or isolated for the duration of symptoms, and seeking medical care immediately if symptoms get worsened.

As per directions of the doctors, patients should be isolated in the hospital or at residence and avoid contact with others.

All patients should cover eyes with goggles in order to reduce photophobia symptoms. These patients should cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue or the inner crook of the elbow in order to avoid contamination of hands.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador, Mehmet Pacaci called on Murtaza Solangi Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

PBM assists 11.6million, aids 250,000 in medical care in past year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM) has provided assistance to more than 11.616574 million individuals in need and has allocated financial support for medical treatment to 250,000 individuals during last year, said an official. He informed APP that Individual Financial Assistance (IFA) serves as a means of support for the underprivileged, including widows, impoverished women, orphans, and individuals with disabilities.

This assistance encompasses various areas such as general aid, education, medical treatment, and rehabilitation.

The financial assistance has been provided to 3,000 patients over the last three years.

PBM offers medical

treatment for significant illnesses and disabilities among financially disadvantaged patients. It also fosters economic empowerment through rehabilitation initiatives and provides education stipends to deserving and talented students from low-income backgrounds enrolled in public educational and technical institutions.

He mentioned that in the fiscal year 2022-23, 8,390 individuals received medical assistance, 4,391 were granted educational scholarships, and 18,375 received educational stipends. PBM aids underprivileged students in government educational institutions but excludes those in private schools or with parents who are government servants.

According to a notification, the Election Commission successfully completed the registration process for the new IPP party on Thursday. Official registration of IPP has been granted by the Election Commission, invoking Sections 208 and 209 (3) of the Elections Act, 2017, in conjunction with sub-rule (2) of Rule 158 from the Election Rules 2017.

Tahir Ashrafi, George discuss Jaranwala incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi discussed the Jaranwala incident with Caretaker Minister for Human Rights Khalil George, the other day.

Ashrafi who is also the President of the International Interfaith Harmony Council condemned the gruesome incident in the strongest terms.

George said the government was committed to upholding and promoting the rights of all citizens in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

He appreciated the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar's immediate legal action against those involved in the Jaranwala incident.

"We will not allow bigotry and lawlessness to ignite animosity among our communities," he added.

ECP declares IPP as eligible to contest elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has given the green light to Jahangir Khan Tareen's Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) to participate in the upcoming elections across the country.

According to a notification, the Election Commission successfully completed the registration process for the new IPP party on Thursday. Official registration of IPP has been granted by the Election Commission, invoking Sections 208 and 209 (3) of the Elections Act, 2017, in conjunction with sub-rule (2) of Rule 158 from the Election Rules 2017.

Sanjrani extends heartfelt appreciation to teachers on World Teachers' Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): In connection with World Teachers' Day, Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has released a poignant message expressing sincere gratitude to the dedicated educators across the nation. In his statement, the Chairman Senate commended the tireless efforts of teachers in shaping the future of Pakistan, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

He highlighted the invaluable contribution of educators, emphasizing their crucial role in building a knowledgeable and empowered society.

Sadiq Sanjrani further underscores the Senate's commitment to advancing education through the recently established Education Parliamentarians Caucus (EPC). This caucus aims to support and work towards an educated society in Pakistan, promoting education for all.

Nawaz directs party to bring 5 lac people on Minar-e-Pakistan

LAHORE (Online): PML-N core committee meeting was held under Nawaz Sharif through video link.

Meeting was attended by former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz, Rana Sana Ullah, Ahsan Iqbal, Khawaja Asif, Marrayum Aurangzeb, Saad Rafiq and others.

According to sources the meeting reviewed overall economic and political situation of the country. Consultation was made on government decision regarding eviction of illegal immigrants.

The committee reviewed the preparations made so far for the reception of Nawaz Sharif on his return to Pakistan on October 21.

Return of Afghan refugees: FIA immigration counters to be built in 5 major jails

ISLAMABAD (Online): It has been decided to build FIA immigration counters in 5 major jails across the country on the issue of return of Afghan nationals.

Foreigners without proof of residency will be sent to jail. Sources said that the immigration authorities will take steps to deport them from the jail. The relevant police and border area police will bring the illegal Afghans across the border. All the arrested Afghans will be sent across the border under human rights laws, sources reported.

According to the sources, the police operations against illegal resident foreigners are going on in Islamabad. Another 1126 were detained, 503 people will take steps to deport them from the jail. The relevant police and border area police will bring the illegal Afghans across the



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights Khalil George held a meeting with Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Tahir Ashrafi.

CDA demolishes 7,867 illegal structures in markets, sidewalk tracks, green belts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Directorate of Enforcement, Capital Development Authority (CDA) has demolished over 7,867 illegal structures in the markets, roads, green belts, and sidewalk tracks in the federal capital in one and a half years.

"During the operation, around 13,243 items of encroachers have also been confiscated, subsequently, these articles are auctioned. Besides, fines worth Rs. 5.126 million has also been recovered from trespassers as a penalty," sources in the CDA told APP.

They said, "The Directorate of Enforcement has launched as many as 1,423 anti-encroachment opera-

tions carried out across the board in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT)." The sources said, "The Directorate was vigorously undertaking anti-encroachment operations on a regular basis throughout Islamabad in order to curb the illegal constructions in the ICT."

They said the continuous operations were being carried out on a day-to-day basis 24/7 for the retrieval of state land from land grabbers and encroachers.

The matter was being dealt with by the Directorate of Municipal Administration, working under the administrative control.

Experts from different institutions give lectures to Capital Police College trainees

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Capital Police College Islamabad has enlisted the experts of various institutions to augment the training of officers in its inaugural Advanced Course, a public relations officer said.

He said that, these collaborations bring valuable insights and experiences to enlighten aspiring officers, covering a wide range of subjects including fundamental and advanced investigation techniques, Pakistan Penal Code, Crime Scene Investigation, administrative matters, Police Order 2002, interview, and interrogation.

Notable figures contributing to this endeavor include Deputy Prosecutor Islamabad Raja Naveed Kiani gives insight of how to remove the loopholes of investigation in prosecution, Anti-Narcotics Force Inspector Hasnain gives lectures of narcotics-related cases investigation.

SP @ Sheikh Zubair gives lectures of interview and interrogation, SSP @ Jameel Ahmed Hashmi gives administrative matters and



police station inspection lectures, while Law Officer Syed Rashid Ali Shah gives lectures on Police Order 2002. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that these training courses and workshops aim to equip police officers with the latest tools and knowledge to better serve their professional responsibilities and enhance the quality of service provided to the citizens.

SC adjourns hearing in plea against Elahi's arrest

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday adjourned hearing till indefinite time in a petition against the arrest of former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Sardar Tariq Masood heard the case.

During the course of proceeding, the court remarked that where had been written in the law that an accused shouldn't be arrested in any case.



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of teachers with Chief guest DG Federal Directorate of Education Amjad Ahmad Director Colleges Irfan Ullah Principal Prof Sabah faisal in a ceremony held at ICG F6/2 to mark world Teachers Day.

35 officers of Islamabad Capital Police promoted to next ranks

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that welfare of the police force is among the top priorities and each official of the force is a hero for him as he serves the people despite various odds. He said this while congratulating the newly promoted officers in different ranks, a public relations officer said.

He said that, the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan had ordered the Capital Police Officer (Headquarters), the chairman of the Departmental Promotion Committee to call the meeting and fill vacant posts of different ranks as soon as possible.

Following the orders DPCs were held in which the members of the committee checked the record of the officials thoroughly and recommended 35 officers for promotion to their next ranks.

On recommendations of DPC, notification of promotion for 05 Sub-Inspectors to Inspectors, 13 Assistant-Sub-Inspector to Sub-Inspectors and 17 Head Constables to Assistant Sub-Inspectors has been issued.

The Islamabad Capital Police chief congratulated all the officers and said that responsibilities of promoted officers have increased and they have to work with more dedication to accomplish their task.